National Policy on Population

974. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a National Policy on Population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy has taken into consideration the communities whose religions are against the use of family planning methods preventing child birth;

(d) if so, how the policy deals with them; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to pursue such communities for adopting small family norms in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes Sir, the Government has adopted the National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which envisages a set of National socio-demographic goals including attainment of Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 to be achieved by 2010 so as to stabilise the population by 2045 at a level consistent with the socio-economic development of the country. The Policy advocates voluntary adoption of small family norm.

The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples of all Communities to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their own choice, without any compulsion irrespective of their caste, creed, faith or religion. The challenge is not so much of demand generation for family planning services, as of fulfilling gaps in service delivery. The Government accordingly aims to stress on Behavioural Change Communication and on improving access of couples to quality family planning services.

Free travelling for unemployed youth to take examinations

975. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to allow/permit unemployed youths to travel free whenever they'go to take examinations and interviews;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of unemployed youths likely to be benefited; and

(d) the burden on the exchequer due to this decision of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 100 per cent concession in second class basic Mail/Express fare has been extended to unemployed youths travelling to appear in interviews only for selection to Central Government jobs, with effect from 6.9.2004.

(c) and (d) These details are not maintained separately.

Tatkal Scheme

976. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tatkal Scheme has been reintroduced in all the trains;

(b) if so, the details of fares that are going to be charged under Tatkal Scheme and the details of fares of normal charges of tickets;

(c) the total amount that the Railways are going to earn through Tatkal Scheme since its reintroduction;

(d) whether there is any distinction with regard to charges under Tatkal Scheme during peak and non-peak season; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The new Tatkal Scheme is being introduced in the trains phase-wise starting from 14th November, 2004.

(b), (d) and (e) The normal charges of tickets are based on distance